



# UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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DR. FRIEDRICH MIDDELHAUVE, CHAIRMAN NORTH RHINE WESTPHALIA FDP GAVE LENGTHY PRESS CONFERENCE HERE TODAY REGARDING BRITISH ARREST OF NAUMANN CIRCLE. POINTS OF MAJOR INTEREST WERE FOLLOWINGS:

(1) EITHER NRW OR FEDERAL FDP WILL FORMALLY INVITE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND BRITISH PARLIAMENT TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO GERMANY TO INVESTIGATE KIRKPATRICK'S CHARGE THAT FDP HAS BEEN INFILTRATED BY SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. THEN SAID THAT IF INVESTIGATION PROVE THIS CHARGE TO BE GROUNDFLESS, GERMAN PUBLIC MUST SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CHARGE ARE FIT TO HOLD RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS IN GERMANY.

(2) REGARDING REPORTED STATEMENT OF BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN THAT ACTION SIMILAR TO RECENT ARRESTS COULD BE TAKEN AFTER RATIFICATION, EXPRESSED OPINION THAT SUCH ACTION WOULD HAVE TO BE TRIPARTITE AND THAT "AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE SO FOOLISH" AS TO CONCUR IN SUCH ACTION.

(3) MIDDELHAUVE DID NOT DISCUSS PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY RECENTLY RELEASED BY AMERICAN HICOG PURPORTING TO SHOW INCREASED NEO-NAZI SENTIMENT IN WEST GERMANY UNTIL POINT WAS RAISED IN QUESTION PERIOD. HE THEN REMARKED THAT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING RELEASE THIS SURVEY WERE RATHER "MYSTERIOUS" AND WENT ON TO GIVE ARGUMENTS WHY SURVEY SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY. SAID THAT IF THERE IS ANY TREND IN WESTERN GERMANY AWAY FROM EUROPEAN IDEA IT IS PRIMARILY DUE TO RECENT DISCONCERTING DEVELOPMENTS IN FRANCE.

(4) THOUGH MIDDELHAUVE AT ONE POINT TERMED NAUMANN "DANGEROUS" INDIVIDUAL, HE DEFINITELY RIDICULED THE CHARGE THAT THE NAUMANN CIRCLE REPRESENTS ANY SERIOUS THREAT TO ALLIED FORCES AND HE CONTENDED THAT BRITISH ARRESTS WILL

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HAVE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCE OF SHAKING GERMAN CONFIDENCE THAT THEY LIVE IN A RECHTSSTAAT.

(5) IN RATHER AMBIGUOUS MANNER MIDDELHAUVE STATED HIS FEAR THAT BRITISH ARRESTS REPRESENTED DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO DESTROY CONFIDENCE IN WESTERN GERMANY AS A RELIABLE PARTNER FOR THE WEST.

(6) MIDDELHAUVE CALLED FOR RAPID CLARIFICATION OF ALL CHARGES AGAINST FDP AND DEMANDED THAT CASE NOT BE PERMITTED TO FADE AWAY WITHOUT DECISIVE PROOF OR DISPROOF OF THESE CHARGES.

(7) HE STRESSED THAT FDP OPENLY AND COURAGEOUSLY MAINTAINS "OPEN DOOR" POLICY TOWARDS FORMER NAZIS PROVIDED THEY ARE NOW READY TO WORK IN DEMOCRATIC FASHION.

(8) HE STATED THAT NRW FDP EXECUTIVE BOARD WAS UNANIMOUSLY ASCERTAINED THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN FDP MEMBERS AND THOSE ARRESTED.

(9) WITH REFERENCE TO PRESS REPORT THAT BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT REINHOLD MAIER KNEW OF BRITISH ARRESTS WELL IN ADVANCE, MIDDELHAUVE STATED THAT ANY HIGH RANKING INDIVIDUAL IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WHO HAD SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD HAVE INSTIGATED APPROPRIATE ACTION RATHER THAN KEEP INFORMATION TO HIMSELF.

CHALKER

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